

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A method of making a reclosable bag comprising:

feeding a zipper tape having at least one splotched portion ~~thereof across a~~ past an optical sensor that optically detects opacity variations in said zipper tape;

optically detecting said splotched portion to obtain produce a signal; and

actuating a cutter for cutting said zipper tape in response to said signal to create a selected portion of the zipper tape; and

sealing the selected portion of the zipper tape to a web.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein said step of optically detecting said splotched portion includes the step of optically detecting zipper strip opacity variations and said step of optically detecting comprises determining a thickness of said splotched portion by changes in the opacity of portions of said zipper strip.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of claim 2 in which said step of determining comprises comparing said thickness of said splotched portion to a reference predetermined thickness of the zipper tape.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1 further comprising splotching said zipper tape multiple times to create a series of splotches along the length of the zipper tape.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claims 1, 2 or 4 further comprising sealing said selected portion of the zipper tape to a web.

Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~An~~ A method for sealing a portion of a zipper tape to a web, said zipper tape having a splotch along the length of the zipper tape, said splotch having a thickness less than the zipper tape thickness, the method comprising:

providing an elevator having a platform for receiving ~~the~~ a portion of zipper tape;

depositing the portion of zipper tape onto the platform by feeding the zipper tape onto the platform and past an optical sensor that optically detects variations in the thickness of said zipper tape, until said optical sensor detects a splotched portion in the zipper tape being fed;

positioning a sealing head over the web section for heating the web section; and

elevating the platform towards the web section until the portion of zipper tape on the platform comes into contact with the web section, thereby forming a seal between ~~at least a portion of the portion of~~ the zipper tape and the web section.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim 6 wherein said sealing head is in contact with the web section when the portion of zipper tape on the platform comes into contact with the web section.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of perforating the web section.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 8 wherein the web section is perforated by a knife positioned above the web section.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of claim 8 wherein the web section is perforated prior to the portion of zipper tape on the platform being sealed to the web section.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 6 wherein the seal is substantially airtight.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 6 wherein the seal is substantially watertight.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method of claim 6 wherein the portion of zipper tape is created by feeding a zipper tape ~~having at least one~~ until a splotched portion ~~thereof across a~~ crosses the sensor, thereby detecting said splotched portion to obtain a signal from the sensor, and cutting said zipper tape in response to said signal to create the portion of zipper tape on the platform.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 6 wherein the method is repeated to seal a plurality of zipper tapes to the web and further comprising the step of winding the resulting web onto a winder.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): An apparatus for sealing a portion of a zipper tape to a web section, the apparatus comprising:

- an elevator having a platform for receiving the portion of zipper tape;
- means for depositing the portion of zipper tape onto the platform;
- means for positioning the web section above the platform; and
- a sealing head positioned over the web section for heating the web section, wherein the platform can be elevated towards the web section until the portion of zipper tape comes into contact with the web section to form a seal between at least a portion of the portion of the zipper tape and the web section.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the sealing head is in contact with the web section when the portion of zipper tape comes into contact with the web section.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 15 further comprising a cutter for perforating the web section.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the cutter comprises a knife positioned above the web section.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the seal is substantially airtight.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the seal is substantially watertight.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the zipper tape has at least one splotched portion and further comprising a sensor for detecting the splotched portion to obtain a

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signal, and a cutter for cutting said zipper tape in response to said signal to create the portion of zipper tape.